

"Mooncakes is spellbinding!"

-Tillie Walden, Eisner-winning creator of
Spinning and *On a Sunbeam*



Mooncakes

Wendy Xu

Suzanne Walker



Dear readers,

Mooncakes began on the eve of separation, in spring of 2015, as Suzanne was preparing to move back to Chicago and Wendy remained in New York. Our creative partnership became a way to keep our friendship alive and thriving, the space where we could connect across the country. It's fitting, then, that *Mooncakes* is a story of reunion—two childhood crushes who find each other again and find out whether their friendship could be something more.

Nova and Tam are many things. They are both Chinese American, queer, and from unconventional families. Nova is hard-of-hearing and Tam is nonbinary; they each have their own form of magic. But these aspects of their identity don't make the story. Tam is a terrible punster who has been lonely and in flux all their life; in returning to the one place that felt like home, they have a chance to discover who they are and what they want. In contrast, there is a bit of innocence to Nova: she has stayed in one place her whole life and is only now starting to wonder if she could do more. Amidst the supernatural mysteries and horse demons, these are the questions Nova and Tam must answer as they discover what they mean to each other.

It was important to us that our heroes have a strong support network; we took great joy in developing Nova's grandmothers, her best friend Tatyana, and Terry Shin the pigeon bro. Amidst their struggles, Nova and Tam thrive in a vibrant, rich world brought to life by Wendy's beautifully detailed art. Above all, we hope for a story that resonates with those who are suckers for an old-fashioned love story, with a touch of modern magic. They are a witch and a werewolf, after all.

Thank you for reading!

-Wendy and Suzanne



Mooncakes

Wendy Xu

Suzanne Walker

Lettered by Joamette Gil



ROAR™

CHAPTER 1







My family moved around a lot when I was a kid--never stayed in one place long enough to really settle anywhere.



I never felt like I belonged, but here ... here, I could have, if we'd stayed long enough.



Gotta start somewhere, right?



















Been here two hours and nothing.
Gonna go in the woods to check.
Call Nanas if I don't text in an hour.



I... I dunno,
Nova, I've never
spent the full moon
away from home
before...

It'll be
fine, silly!



T--Tam?



Wait!





















Shh, Isabell!
You'll wake the
Nanas!



Too late for
that, Nova dear:
She started yowling
when you came in
the yard.

Who's your
friend, Nova?
Is that--



Tam Long,
is that you?



Hey there,
Ms. G.



Well, this is a
nice surprise! What
are you doing back
in town?







I... how much do you know about wolf magic?

Not much. It's still a pretty new theory, right?

Yeah, people've never really thought of it until the last decade or so.

Is it that werewolves carry more magic than just the transformation?



Well, not exactly. It's like...



...Like changing into a wolf creates more energy than anyone's ever realized.



There are theories that if you can harness the energy, direct it out of you...



...well, it's enough to wake the dead, so to speak.







Chapter 2





So what now, Lang?



This was your mess to fix, and now you've gotten them all mixed up in it.

The one friend who was
ever good to you, and

--Hey.

I remember those.

She was so excited to put them up.

Nova always knew
the constellations way
better than I did.























Anybody home?













We don't
want to interfere,
after all.



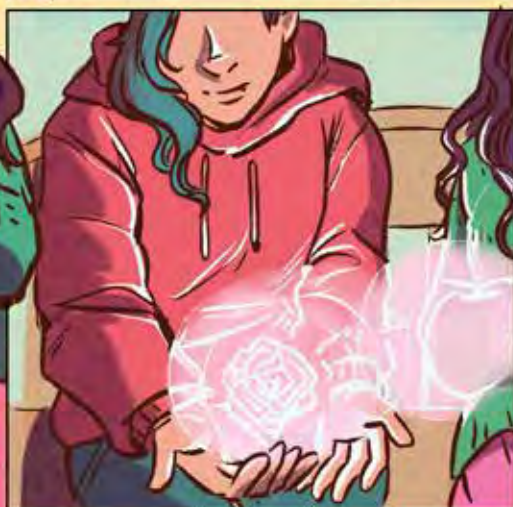














Do you remember that night before you left, when we almost...



Yeah.



Do you think we could...



Chapter 3





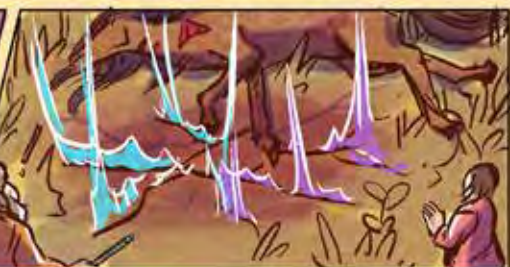
You really
picked the wrong
town to haunt,
dear.



Ever heard
of the '94
Purge?



That was us.















































Chapter 4





















Hey.



Everything okay?



Yeah, just...family stuff, you know.



Boy, do I know.



They all seem pretty great, though.



And I like your parents.























So that's
it, then.



Are you
ready?



I don't
know if I'll
ever be
ready.



Does it ever get easier?
Transforming?



Nope.
Still hurts as
much as when
I was a kid.



I'm
sorry.





















What-
ever happens,
we go through it
together!



But--

And you don't
need to worry about the
Nanas. They've faced way
worse than this.



What
happened, last
night?



I...
I thought
I could do it,
y'know?



I thought
I could channel
it out, I just--
couldn't find
the path.

I could
feel the energy
in me, about to
change me.



I thought
of one other thing
we could try.



If you're
up for it.



What
is it?

There's a kind
of magic that allows
witches to enter each
other's minds.



It's meant
to strengthen
connections, get new
perspectives.



Are you
sure this isn't
just a sex
metaphor?

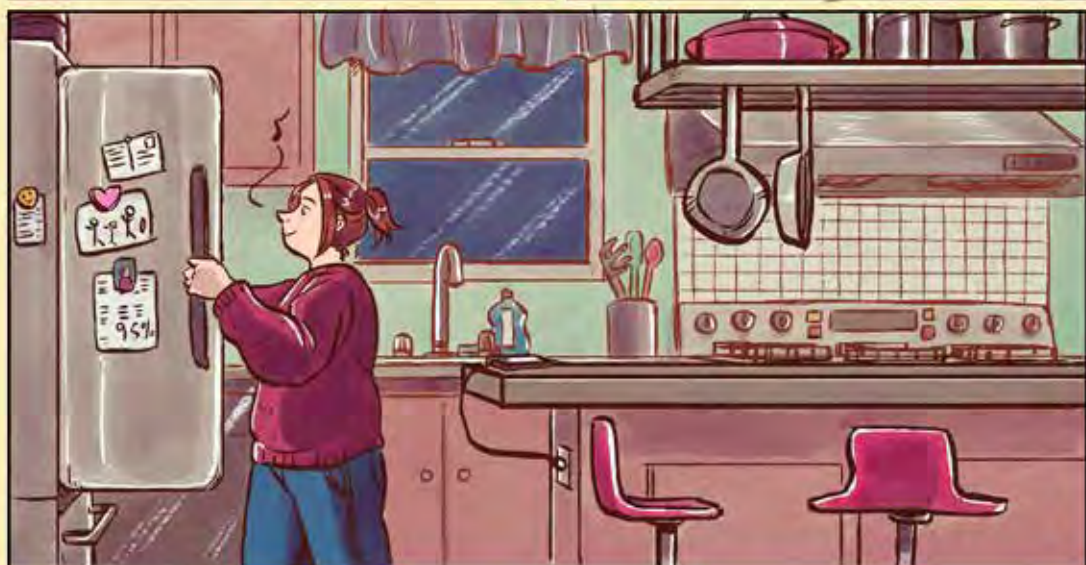




CHAPTER 5









This is...



This is weird.



You're not wearing--

I guess I don't need them here.



There's no sound, after all.



Oh. How is that for--



It's fine.

Nova--

I don't want to talk about it.

Come on.

This is about strengthening our connection, right?

So?
Tell me how this feels.

It's...
it's hard,
okay?



I did this with
Grandma Nechama
when I was a kid.

I was so
young when I
started nonverbal
magic...



I needed
some extra
help to figure
out how.

I could...
I could see
that.

Cool,
huh?



Anyway, that
was the only
time I never had
to worry.

Worry about
understanding people
or dealing with the
hearing aids.

And it just...
it makes me wish
people could handle
things better, in the
real world.

Yeah...




Lot of things
I wish people could
do better in the
real world.



Yeah.





Well, there's
one thing we can
try to fix.

As great as this is,
I still don't get how it's
supposed to help.

Let's figure
it out.



















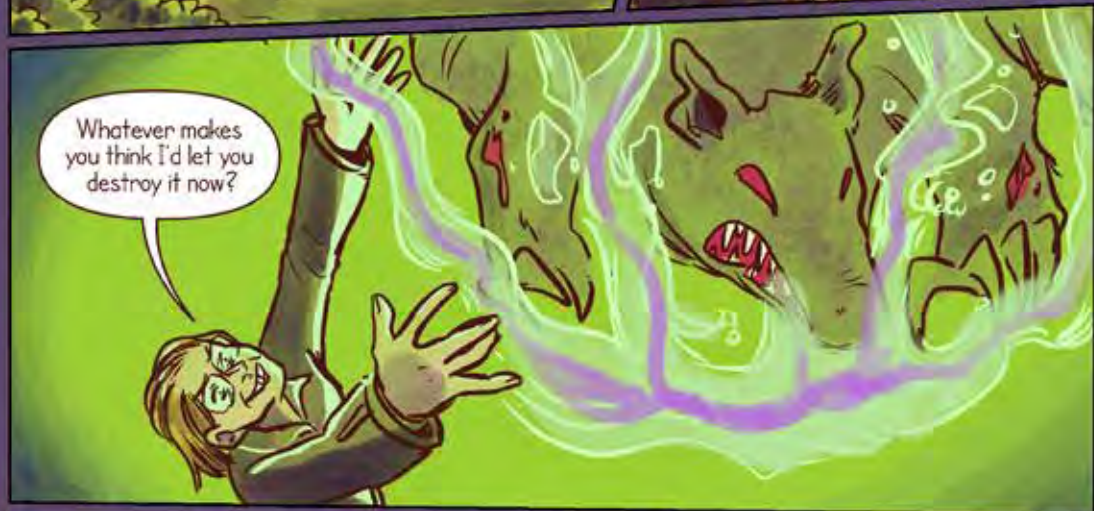


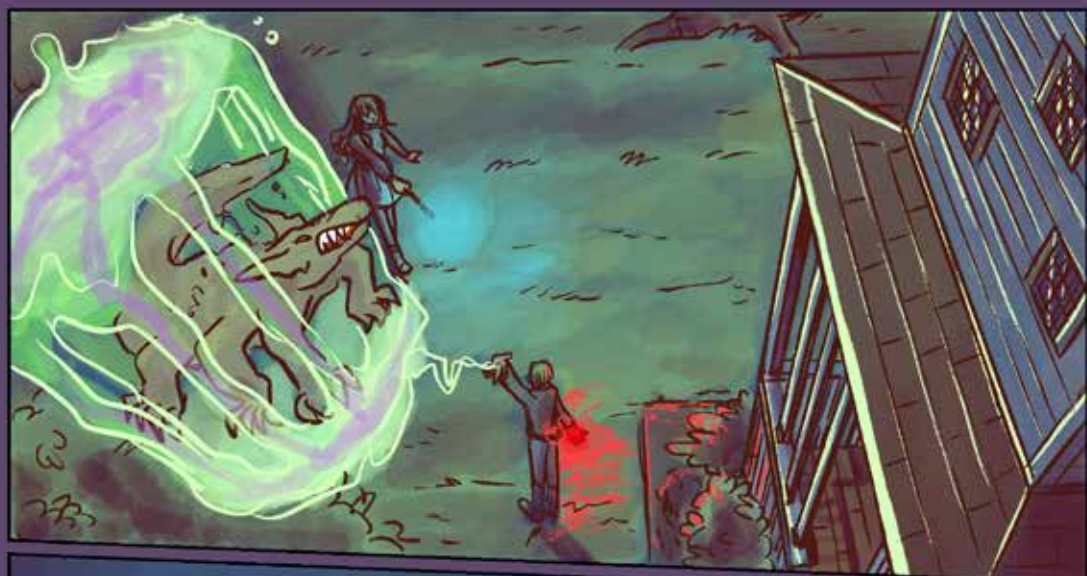














Like technology!



CHAPTER 6

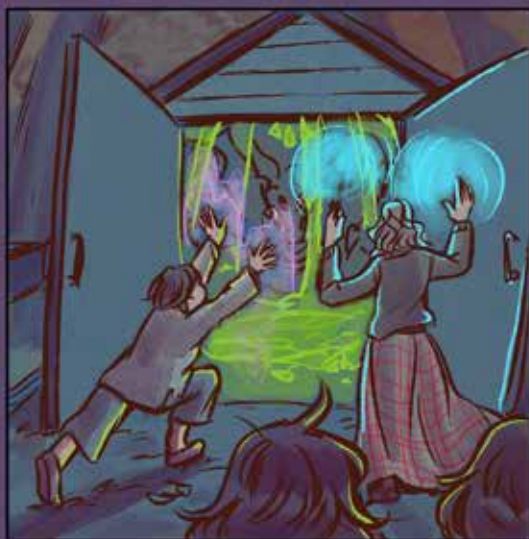
























Oh, no you don't.









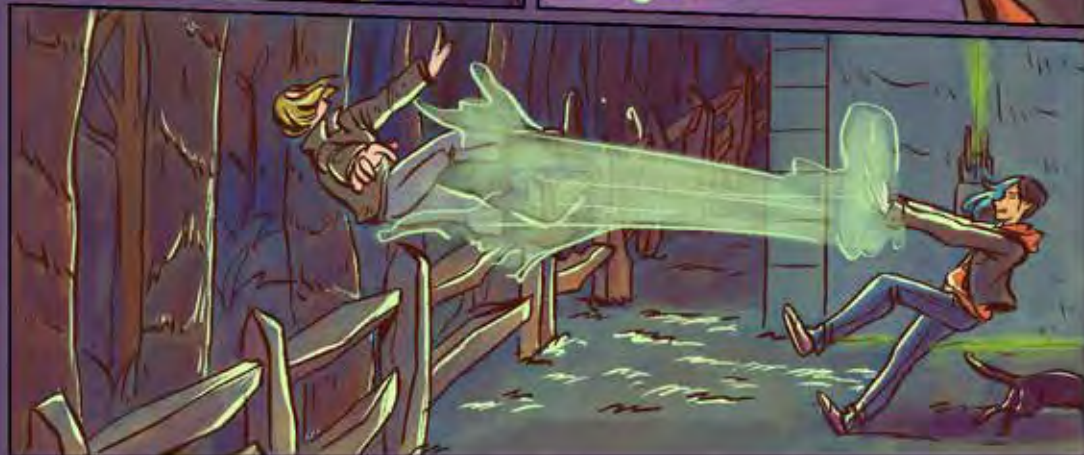


















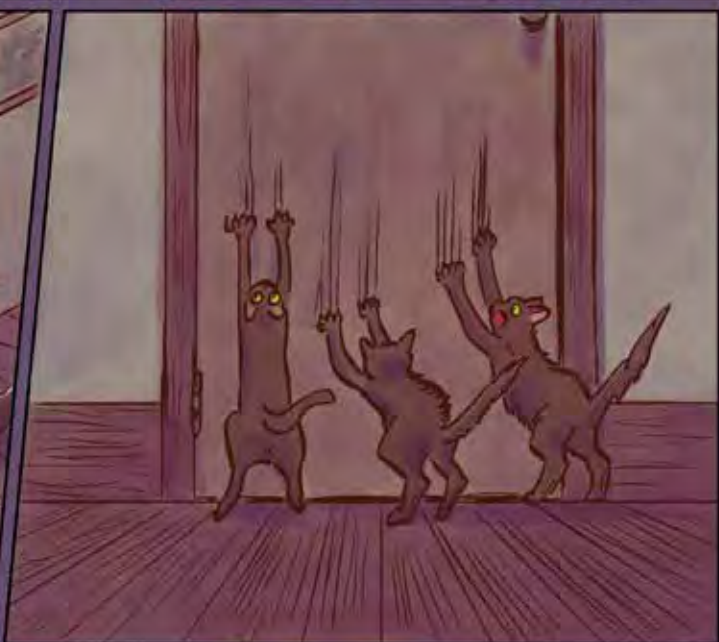




...the ritual
can begin.

Chapter 7

































Ah, you're awake. Good.



Let me go!



Come now. We're well past that, don't you think?



I'll--I'll blast you again!



You can try, if you'd like...





















CHAPTER 8

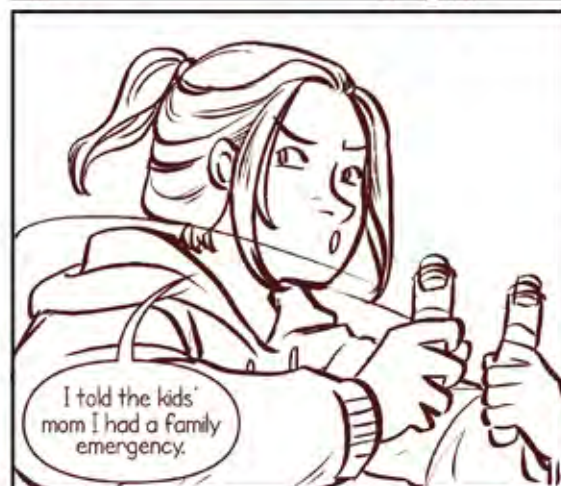


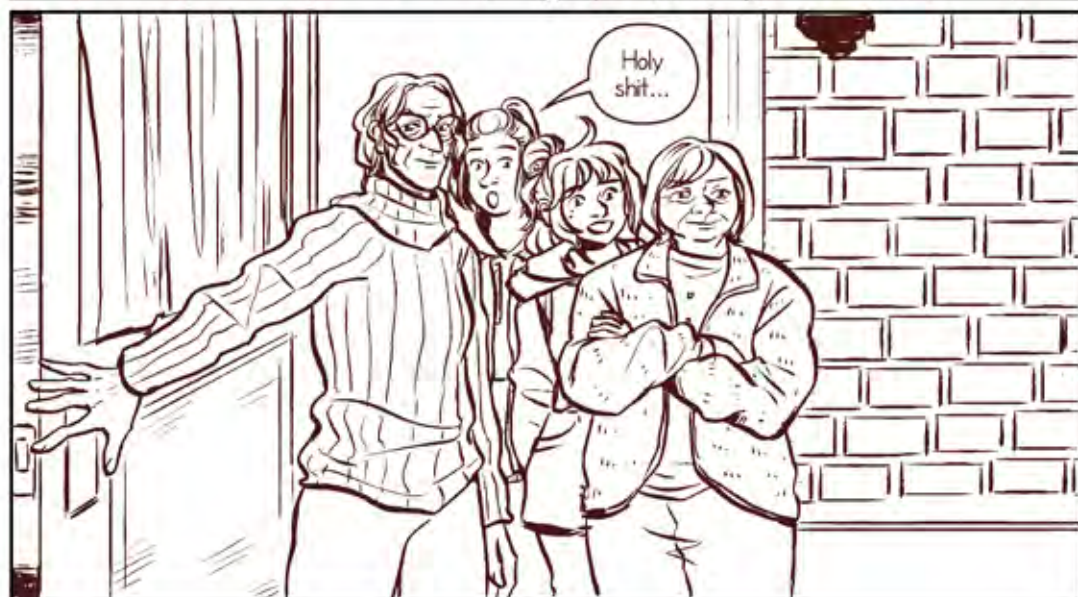
Huang kitchen, early morning.

Backup wand?

Check.











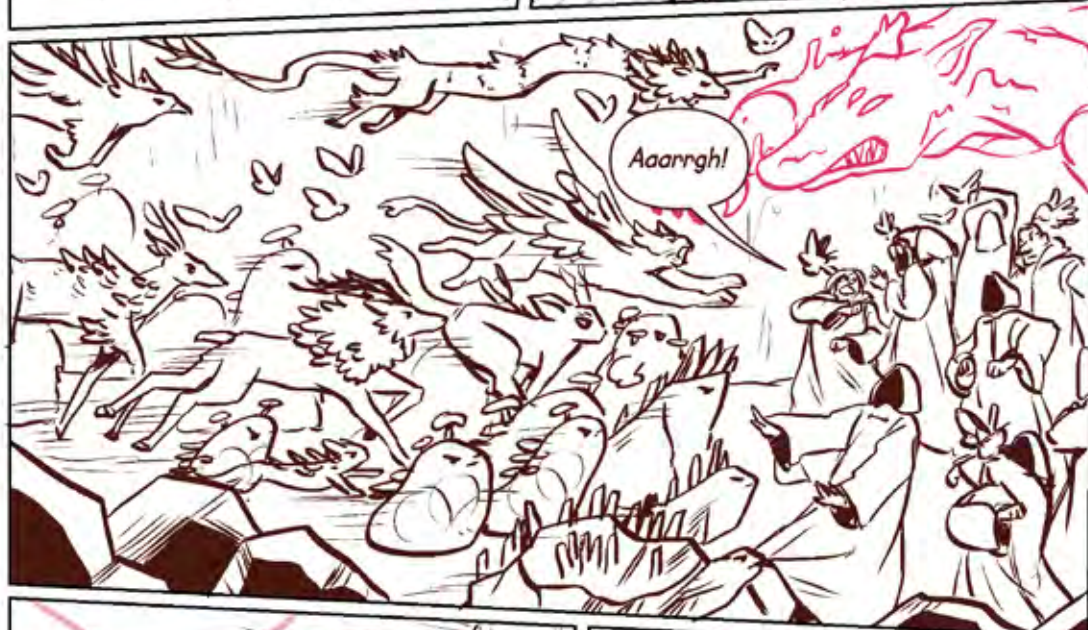






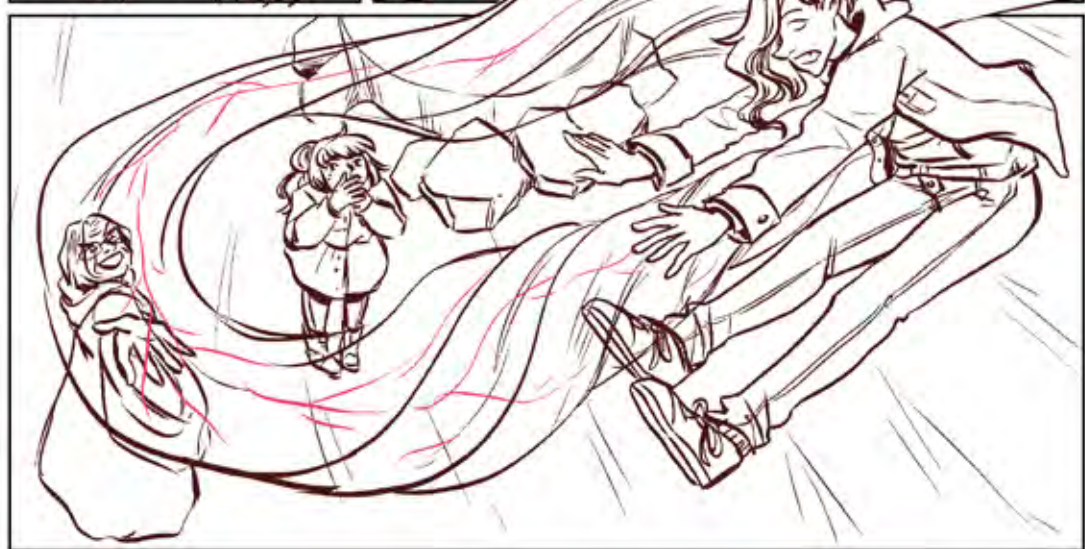


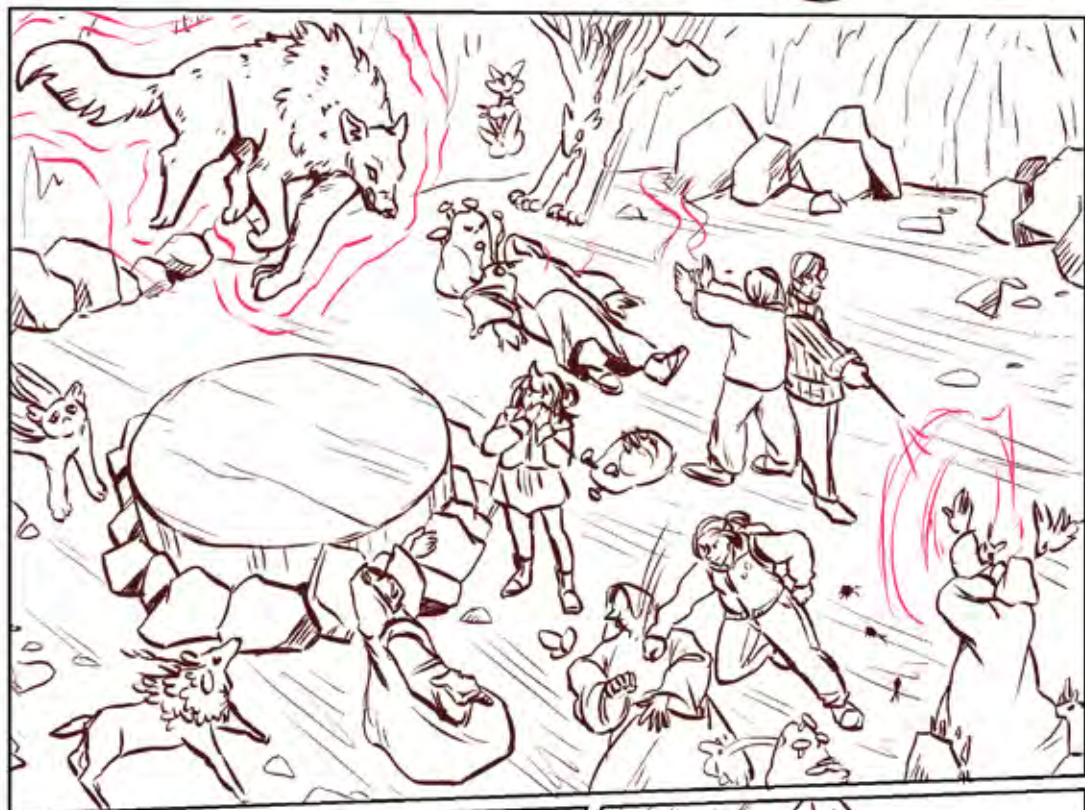






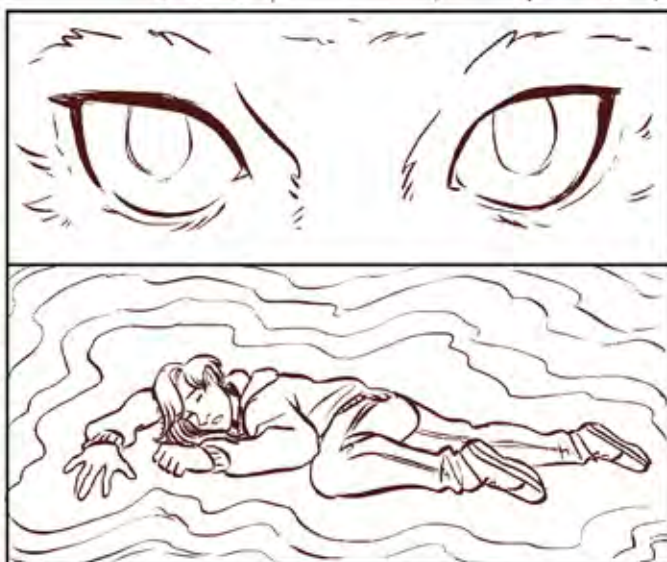
















I guess we're
not so different
after all.

They did
this to you,
didn't they?

Used you
up until there was
nothing left.

Yeah, they
did the same
to me.

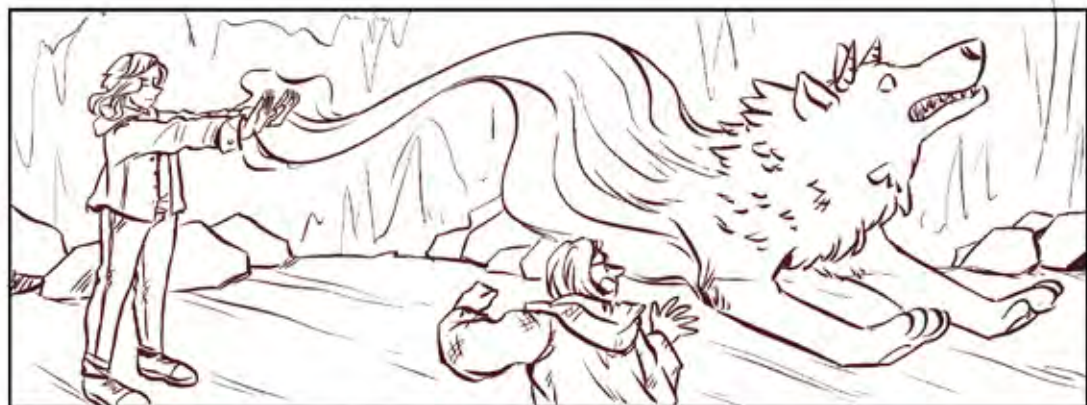
Made me
believe I was
all alone.

But see, there's
someone out there
who believes in me.

Loves me,
even.









Okay,
buddy...

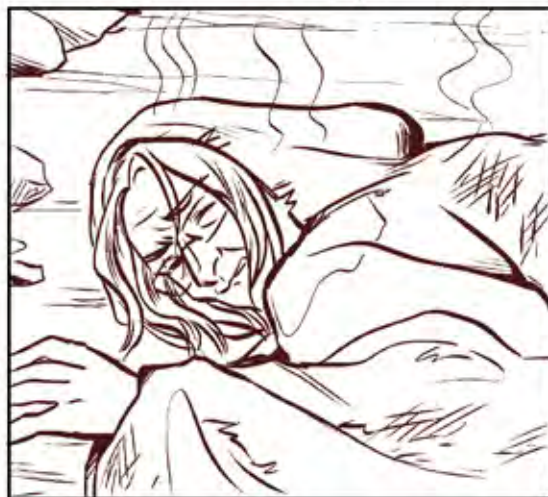
...let's
do this.

You deserve to
live your life...

...on whatever
it is a spirit has...

Hah!









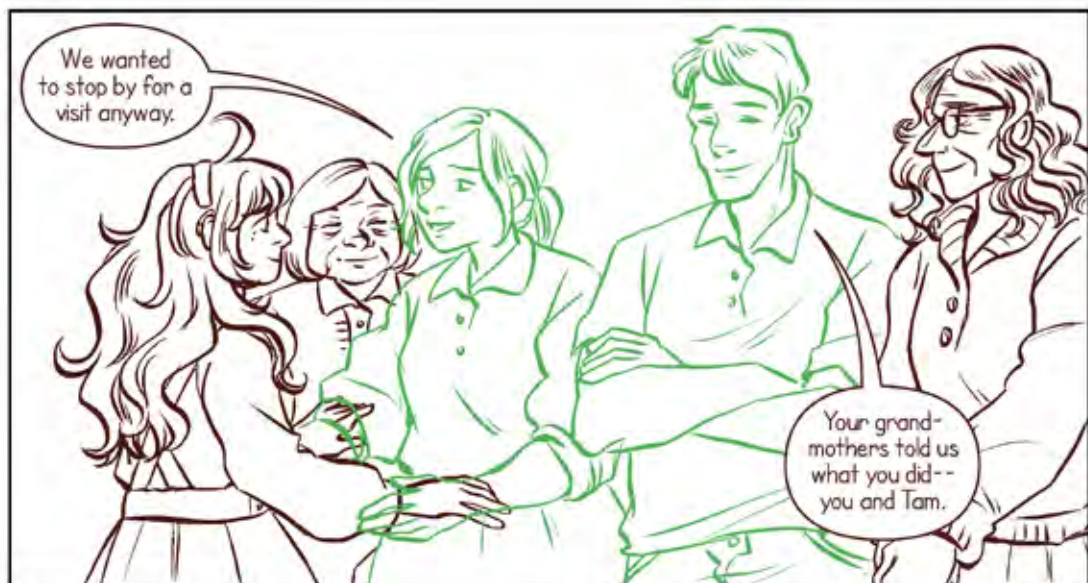


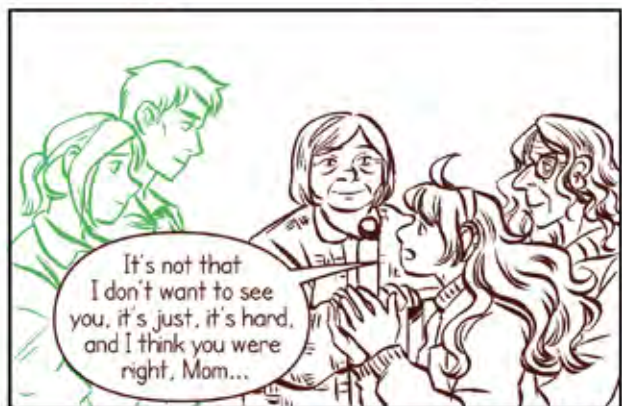
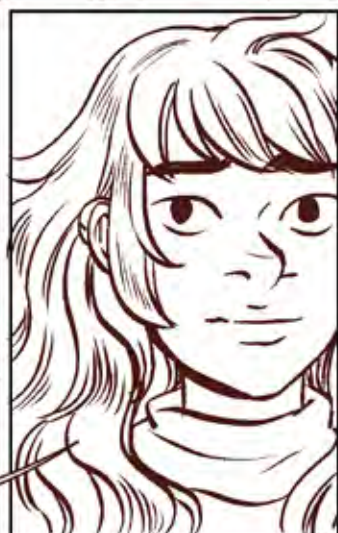


EPILOGUE



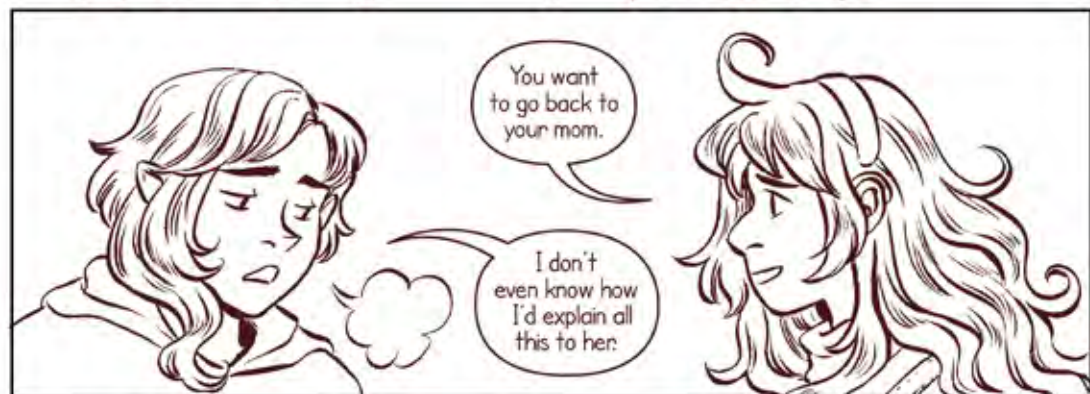




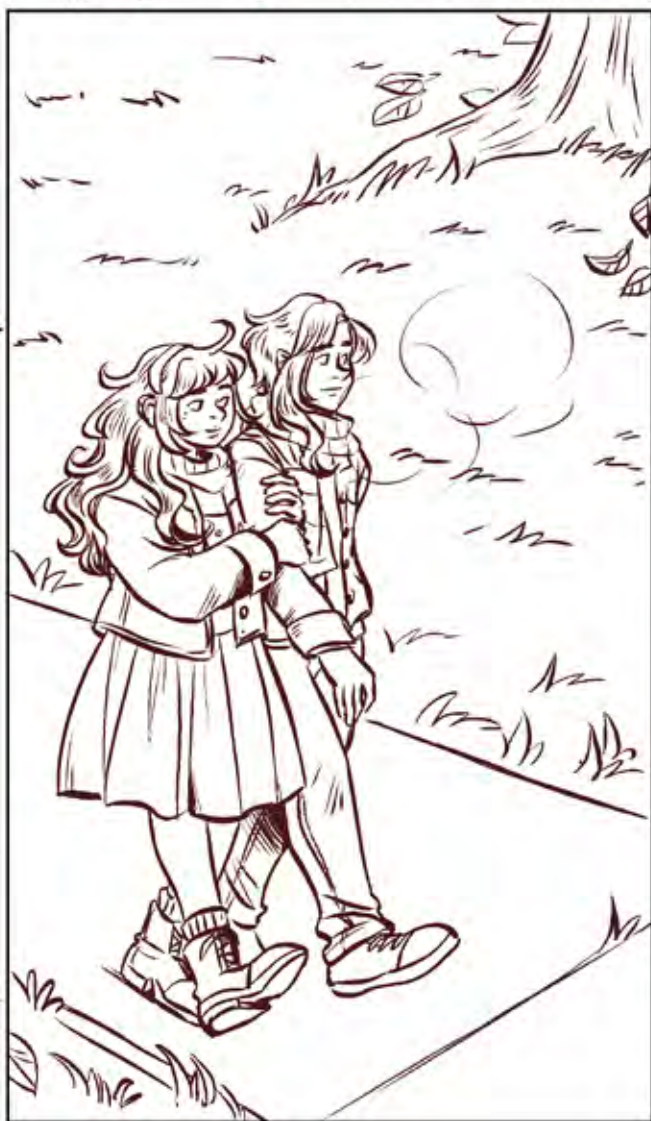




















Look forward to
acknowledgments,
back matter, and
bonus material to be
available with the
release of *Mooncakes*
in October 2019!



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